

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A negative electrode, comprising:

a) a lithium material; and

b) a film of Li<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> on a surface of the coating ~~said~~ lithium material, ~~said~~ film ~~formed by treating~~ ~~said~~ lithium material with an oxidizing agent comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of an interhalogen, an oxychloride and combinations thereof prior to incorporation of ~~said~~ electrode into a battery cell.

20-23. (canceled)

24. (original) The electrode of claim 19, wherein said lithium material is comprised of at least one of lithium metal, a lithium alloy, and a lithium insertion compound.

25-47. (canceled)